

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SINGAP 05456 031039Z

64

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DPW-01 EUR-12 TRSY-02 /091 W

----- 106213

R 031003Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6673

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 5456

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: WORLD CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND PEACE TACKLES BOAT
CASE PROBLEM

REF: A. SN 5226; B. SINGAPORE 5437

1. EMBOFF ATTENDED PORTIONS OF THE ASIAN CONFERENCE ON RELIGION
AND PEACE (ACRP) ON NOVEMBER 29 AND THE WORLD CONFERENCE
ON RELIGION AND PEACE (WCRP) ON DECEMBER 2 DEALING WITH
INDOCHINESE REFUGEE BOAT CASES. CONFERENCE MEMBERS WHO HAD
VISITED THE M.V. KADINA WERE VERY CONCERNED WITH THE PLIGHT
OF THE REFUGEES.

2. FRENCH AMBASSADOR, WHO ALSO INVITED TO ATTEND CONFERENCE,
NOTED THE DIFFICULTIES IN DEALING WITH THE GOS, AND POINTED
OUT THAT THE PLIGHT OF REFUGEES ABOARD SMALL BOATS TURNED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SINGAP 05456 031039Z

AWAY EACH WEEK BY THE GOS WAS MUCH WORSE THAN THOSE ABOARD

THE KADINA. EMBOFF EXPLAINED THE CURRENT DIFFICULTIES THIS EMBASSY HAS IN ASSISTING WITH THE PROBLEM OWING TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE EPP AND THE NEED TO DEVELOP AN ADEQUATE ALTERNATIVE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM.

3. THE MOST INNOVATIVE SUGGESTION, ENDORSED WITH ENTHUSIASM BY THE CONFERENCE, WAS A PROPOSAL TO ACQUIRE A LARGE PASSENGER VESSEL UNDER U.N. AUSPICES TO RESCUE THE REFUGEES ON THE HIGH SEAS. FOGARTY, A LOCAL AMCIT RESIDENT MARRIED TO A VIETNAMESE, EMPHASIZED THE NECESSITY FOR QUICK ACTION AS THE MONSOON SEASON WAS RAPIDLY APPROACHING. THE WCRP BOARD OF DIRECTORS LATER ADOPTED THIS PROPOSAL IN ITS RESOLUTION ON DEC. 2 (FOR FULL TEXT SEE REF B). AS A COROLLARY TO THIS PROPOSAL, THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CAMP IN SOME AREA NEARBY IF POLITICALLY FEASIBLE. TWO SUGGESTIONS WERE AN UNINHABITED INDONESIAN OR PHILIPPINE ISLAND, OR THE MORE NEUTRAL TERRITORY OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND (SIC).

4. THE NEED TO PUBLICIZE THE BOAT CASE PROBLEM WAS STRESSED AS WAS THE NEED TO INCREASE SUPPORT FOR THE UNHCR TO STRENGTHEN ITS HAND IN NEGOTIATING WITH S.E.A. GOVERNMENTS.

5. APPROPRIATIONS FROM ACRP FUNDS OF US\$650 FOR MEDICINES AND IMMEDIATELY NEEDED SUPPLIES WERE APPROVED BY THE ACRP AS WAS US\$25,000 APPROPRIATED FOR LEASING AND PROVISIONING A 50 FOOT BOAT TO LOCATE REFUGEES AND TRANSFER THEM TO A LARGE PASSENGER VESSEL. THIS AMOUNT WAS IN ADDITION TO THE US\$60,000 CONTRIBUTION BY THE JAPANESE COMMITTEE OF WCRP TO BE USED FOR THE CHARTERING OF THE PASSENGER SHIP (SEE REF B). IT WAS BELIEVED THAT THE SMALL BOAT COULD BE LOCATED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AND THAT A LARGER ONE COULD BE LOCATED WITHIN 2 TO 4 DAYS.

6. DR. LISAKA OF JAPAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE, SAW THEIR PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE AS CONSISTING OF FOUR STAGES:

- A) PATROLLING AND LOCATING REFUGEES
- B) DELIVERING THEM TO THE LARGER VESSEL
- C) LOCATING A PLACE FOR TEMPORARY ASYLUM AND
- D) PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT

7. RABBI MOSHOWITZ FROM GARDEN CITY, L.I., WAS OBSERVER AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SINGAP 05456 031039Z

ACRP, AND DURING LUNCHEON CONVERSATION AMBASSADOR URGED HIM TO DISCUSS WITH UNHCR POSSIBILITY OF LATTER ORGANIZATION PAYING SUPPORT COSTS OF REFUGEES RESCUED AT SEA AND WHO ARE PRESENTLY ABOARD MERCHANT OR OTHER TYPES OF VESSELS BUT PREVENTED FROM LANDING. POINT WAS MADE THAT KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH SUPPORT MIGHT MAKE MASTERS OF POTENTIAL RESCUE VESSELS SOMEWHAT LESS RELUCTANT TO PICK UP REFUGEES IN DISTRESS ON THE HIGH SEAS. MOSHOWITZ SAID HE WOULD DO SO, AND INDICATED AWARENESS

OF PRESENT UNHCR POLICY OF PAYING COSTS OF REFUGEES ONLY
AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN ALLOWED ASHORE. WE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT
MOSHOWITZ GET IN TOUCH WITH SHEPARD LOWMAN OF D/HA FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION RE US POLICY ON BOAT CASE REFUGEES. HOLDRIDGE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, MARINE TRANSPORTATION, PRESS COMMENTS, KADINA M/V
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SINGAP05456
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760448-0805
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761274/aaaacmkv.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 SINGAPORE 5437
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <06 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND PEACE TACKLES BOAT CASE PROBLEM
TAGS: SREF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006